# The Times The Dispatch

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HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH,

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MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1906.

Man is never so manly as when he feels deeply, acts boldly, and expresses himself with frankness and with fervor.—Disraell.

### The Trades and the Professions.

Disparity between the earnings of the professional classes and those of the skilled trades has frequently been pointed out in the columns of The Times-Disnatch. Striking testimony to this disparity is given in a brief article in Collier's Weekly, whih is reprinted in and other column to-day. The tables contrast the income of teachers in several States with the wages of bricklayers, masons and other skilled artisans, and show that the average of the latter is in short, hire six teachers in Bucks county, Pa., for less than the full year's earnings of one able-bodied bricklayer.

These figures are not unusual or extraordinary in any way. They are not, a case. They merely represent fairly enough and palpably enough an economic worst paid of the learned professions. The average income of lawyers in this country is estimated at some \$600 a year. The average doctor, if our memory serves, makes no more. Many a country parish the highest-waged workmen been selected for comparison. There are many er's \$5.60 per day. A hammersmith in a great manufacturing plant not wholly are told on excellent authority, approximately \$6,000 a year. Reflect upon that for a moment. You could employ most learned college professor in

be controverted. Trades pay better than professions. Changing economic condioversupply of teachers and lawyers and the growing strength of the unions The so-called educated classes have retained their "dignity" and the

Nor, if this disparity of earning capacity is increased or long maintained, can there be any doubt what the result will be? We shall see young men leaving backs upon that prospect to go in for carpentering, tile-laying and cabinetpurest folly. Why should an intelligent man teach school in Bucks county for \$15 a month, when he can get \$120 a month for hoisting engines? Apropos of Dr. Page's remarks before

the Education Association, we had somethat which helps most to establish the ocracy. The practice of law has no Inherent superiority in dignity over that of laying bricks. If more of social prestige appears to attach to it, that is merely because more men who happened to possess that prestige have gone in for law than for bricklaying, Changed customs, growing irresistibly out of the law of supply and demand, might readily make steam-fitting as highly esteemed a calling as medicine. What is known as a man's "position" in society should not, upon his vocation. If our educated young men can do better in the trades than in very mistaken sense of dignity indeed that would keep them out. Our educational endeavors must turn in this direction if we gain the best results.

Dr. Frissell said at the meeting above referred to that the aim of Hampton Institute was to make its pupils useful. Should the aim of the white schools fall short of that? Should they not aim to make their pupils as useful as possible, to train, every pupil according to his peculiar talents, to develop that which is best within him, to turn his capacity, whatever it may be, to the best account? Education which fails in this will fail at the vital point, and at best can only be partially successful. Education is a con-

# Concentration in Education.

Commenting on our remarks in opposition to the proposal to build three high schools in Richmond, instead of one, the Clifton Forge Review says:

"Consolidation of schools and concentra "Consolidation of schools and concentra-tion of school effort have been successful wherever tried, and we believe that it would be best for Clifton Forze; at any rate, it is but reasonable to conclude that those who make a study of the question are better qualified to advise us than anybody else."

ment a lifelong study. Nor have they confined their studies to theories. They lave made tests, and they have proven that one good school is more economical and far more efficient than three or fou inferior schools. By concentration they save the waste.

The teachers of Richmond are paid. We are informed that the average salary here is \$439, against an average of \$572 in other cities of Richmond's class. Our teachers are asking for an increase possibly afford it. Yet we are consider ing the question of erecting and maintaining three high schools, when one will be quite sufficient for all our needs for many years to come. And it goes without saving that one well equipped school, such as we decided to build, would be far more efficient, to say nothing of economy, than three separate schools with our limited means, could possibly be

Mr. Lynch's proposal is a step backenlightened principles of educational progress, and we have yet to find a school official or a teacher in Richmond who is in favor of it. The proposal should be about it, for so long as it is under con sideration it will embarrass the work on the central high school building, which has already been mapped out.

### "Nigger Whiskey."

The Chattanooga Times has been investigating a brand of "booze" called "nigger whiskey," which comes from the Kentucky still. spirits," so-called, and by keeping it ten days or two weeks in a charred barre whiskey and is sold as such. The distiller stated that one "can get an ample says of it:

"Here we have the explanation of much of the violence and bloodshed wherein the negro is the chief sufferer. Who is responsible? The negro or the white man? Do we not, while claiming to be man? Do we not, while claiming to be a superior race, tolerate a system that supplies a poison to the negro, converting him into a demon, and then kill him for being a demon? What clee are we to expect when we sanction the business that brings the white man and the negro, crazed with potations of neutral spirits from charred barrels and armed with ready guis into confunction, but the with ready guns into confunction, but the condition described as existing in a numcondition described as existing in a num-ber of Southern localities. This 'nigger whiskey' is the stuff sold at the dives and low dens in this and other cities, and, if we are to enjoy immunity from riots, murders, lynchings and criminal assaults, we will have to stop its sale not only to negroes, but to the whites."

Now that the pure-food law is in oper ation, let the inspectors give attention to the various brands of whiskey that are sold over the counters at five cents nakes the negro problem, and it is largely the mean whiskey that makes the liquor problem. When these two meet you get as a net result about as had a combination as the Devil and humanity can make.

But mean whiskey is bad for all men and is responsible for the major part of the liquor evil. Impure liquors do far more harm than impure foods. The inspectors will do the country a noble and valuable service if they will stop the sale of "nigger whiskey" in all its vari-

# Good Men-Poor Citizens.

Commenting on a remark in this paper that Missouri was considering the question of revising her election laws so as to eliminate the illiterate voter, the New

"Wouldn't it be more to the point if

"Wouldn't it he more to the point if Missouri, instead of giving all her attention keeping the illiterate voters at home, would devote some of it to getting the intelligent voters to the ballot-box? "How about New York? our esteemed contemporary may ask. Yes, neighbor, we have the same trouble here. Lots of our men go away for an outing on election day and swear through the following 384 about what was done by the fellows who stayed home and voted the wrong way."

we annot call them our best citizensprofessional politicians attend to the ballot-box; then "wonder if popular government is not after all a failure." Yes, neighbor, many of our best men are our poorest citizens. They attend to personal duties well enough. They are industrious and honest in trade; they are good husbands and fathers, perhaps good churchmen, but they seem to think that the duties of citizenship have no claims upon them. Public spirit to them is a meaningless term. Yet if the Herald should publish a list of the good citizens and poor citizens of Virginia, and should put the names of these delinquents in the black list, it would be overwhelmed with libel suits,

# Mr. Cassatt's Policy.

One of the complaints which the stockholders of the Pennsylvania Railroad had against President Cassatt was that he spent too much money. But President Cassatt was a far-seeing man and an optimist. He had watched the wondrous development of the territory through which his lines passed and had wisely concluded that the Pennsylvania Rail road must provide well in advance for this development, if it would keep up with the demands of traffic. The company is now building extensive terminals in the city of New York at an enormous cost, and yet it was said recently by one of the officials that these terminals would not last longer than ten years; by which he meant that at the end of a decade they would be insufficient for the in-

Other officials of the road have caught Mr. Cassatt's idea and point of view, and the recent announcement that the directors would ask the stockholders for permission to raise \$200,000,000 more of capital should not have taken Wall Street by surprise. The developments of the past, so far from satisfying the de-

House recalls a good local story. The late Colonel W. D. Chesterman, editor of the Richmond Dispatch, was once in conversation with a Northern man, the course of which the latter called him a Har. With the instinct of the true South ern gentleman, the colonel replied with a blow. The Northern man was staggered in more than one sense, but as soon as he recovered stammered out an apology "My dear sir," said he, "I didn't mean that!"

"My dear sir, neither did I," was the

South Carolina, when he dismissed a com-pany of State troops for refusing to obey orders, laid down the principle that sol-diers must blindly obey orders without hesitation or question as to the rightful-ness or legality of the order. And in this case, as The Times-Dispatch well says, it was incumbent on the third class to obey orders, and refused to do so in a sure-enough army would lead to a military execution. We are not surprised at this escapade after the manner that a former such length treatment will greatly tend to foster disobedience and rictous conduct in the future.—Bedford Democrat.

A military organization without discipline would be the worst sort of a

"What is the plural of grapefruit?" asks the Norfolk Landmark, and the question seems to be giving some of the boys trouble. But there is no puzzle about it according to the old grammar which we studied in our boyhood days. If refering to quantity we should say grapeas we should say a bushel of fish, if speaking collectively, but five fishes, if speaking numerically. The same rule ap plies to pease and peas.

An Ohio preacher recently told his congregation that there were better Christians in hell than they. Ever notice how some preacher's minds seem to run hell-wards?

Mrs. Sage's trouble with her husband's money reminds us of the heir who said he was almost sorry pa dled.

Upton Sinclair says that he and Messrs

all Socialists. How's that for a Jungle? Having disposed of the trusts, President now trying to

Colorado River, Simplified spelling is responsible for the

Politics has now put Tillman and For-aker into the same bed.

# COMMENT OF VIRGINIA EDITORS.

At any rate, the movement has been abandoned, and we are rather giad of it. Leaving sentiment out of the matter, there does not seem to us any doubt that Mr. Beyan is the logical candidate for the Democrats, and all this talk of a Southern man for first place on the ticket only tends to confuse a matter that he masses of the Democratic fold have already settled upon, according to all outward indications.—Salem Times-Register.

Forest Depletion.

Along the base of the Alleghany Mountains and in a few of the numerous valleys of the Appaiachian range some timber is yet to be found. But the finest forests are now in the hands of large companies, and are being felled as fast as the saw and ay will do the work. Where is there a fine wainut, or oak, or popular, that has not been disturbed—cut or carried away. Even the stumps are wanted and the dealer has grubbed these out and shipped them to the factories. What will we do when the timber is all gone, we are asked? There will be some devece. But nothing for though in our day weather can equal it, nowed, the same deveced the disturbed of wood, though present prices make it almost beyond the reach of many.—Staunon Speciator.

We rise to repeat the time-worn adage that "South Boston is the biggest town in the world for its size"—that has been true for several years, and every day it is becoming more so, for South Boston is expanding rapidly along the lines of business, population, influence and aggressiveness and is preparing herself for her manifest destiny of being in the near future, the metropolis of Southside Virginia.—Hallfax Gazette,

# POINTS FROM PARAGRAPHERS.

This discussion as to whether England would side with Japan in the event of a war with this country recalls that other interesting question as to whether your sister likes caramels, and if you haven't got a sister, whether she would like them if you had one.—Boston Country of the country of . . .

A New York man, ninety-four years old, has offered to sell himself for \$50, but, as he is not in the Legislature, he is vendible without being merchantable.—Louisville Courier-Journal. You can tell a man who owns an automobile by the way he is never able to pay the housekeeping bills.—New York Press.

There is a present shortage of cars, and, of course, that is distressing, but not nearly so much so as the shortage of pasengers caused by the numerous wrecks,—Washington Herald.

"The fewer our wants the nearer we re-semble the gods," said Socrates. Also the more comfortable are we under the protective tariff system.—Louisville Courler-Journal.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Interesting Meeting to Be Held at Williamsburg Next Week.

Williamsburg Next Week.
Williamsburg, Va., January 13,—A farmers' institute will be held in this city by the authority of the Department of Agriculture and Immigration on Wednesday and Thursday, January 23d and 24th. Speakers of note have been secured for the occasion, and the following is the interesting program which has been arranged:

January 23d, morning session, 10 A. M .-Address on "Soil Improvement," by Pro-fessor A. M. Soule, dean and director of Blacksburg Experiment Station.

10:30 A. M.—Address on "Dairying," by
Mr. William Milem, of Henrico county.

Evening session, 1:30 P. M .- Address on "Insect Pests and Life History," by Pro-fessor John W. Ritchie, of William and Mary College M.-Discussion by Professor

Frank E. Emery.

4 P. M.-Talk on good road building, by the engineer in charge of the Jamestown January 24th, morning session, 10 A. M .-

Address on "Economic Use of Fertilizer," by Professor R. J. Davidson. Evening Session, 1:39 P. M.—Address on "Trucking and Market Gardening," by J. Lyman Babcock, 3:00 P. M.-Address on "Forage Crops for Eastern Virginia," by Professor A. M. Soule.

Bucks Co., Pa. \$35.00

Hazleton, Pa. \$5.00

Chester, Pa. \$40.00

Georgetown, Del. \$5.00

All Idaho (male av.)... 71.03

All Idaho (female av.)... \$6.90

New York City (min., female)... \$9.00

New York City (min., male)... \$9.00

Elmiral, N. Y. (female av.)...

Elmira, N. Y. (female av.)... question are better qualified to advise us the past, so far from satisfying the dehand, have of themselves created a greater demand, and the railroads must make even more bountiful provision for, attendance is looked for.

M. Soule.

A full and free discussion will be given on each subject, and the meeting will be highly instructive to the farmers. A large attendance is looked for.

# Borrowed Jingles

Vesuvius Teddy.

The ordinary bill which remains forever still, All covered o'er with specimens of botany, Is hugely safe and sane; but its heights seem rather plain.

And its allence breeds political monotony. I myself prefer a mount with a crater as its fount. Dropping frebrands like the thunderstorn

of Phylin—
There is something half saturic in cenditions
so volcanic.
Yet were proud of our Political Vesuvius.
With a curious, sulfureous
Rumbling, grumbling roll of thunder,
Teddy's's going to erupt—
Stand from under

Where the grafter sleeps content, suddenly the air is rent
With a blast like that which buried Herculaneum:

culaneum;
Railway lobbies cough and choke in a cloud of flame and smoke.
And the Conscript Fathers get it in the

And the Conscript Fathers get it in the crantum.

Now Chicago beef is shook, now the poor old Spelling-Book.

Shouts: "Have mercy, sire! your heat will crack the shell o' me!"

Now the mountain heaves its shoulders and upheaves a ton of boulders, while the sparks descend and roast the luckless Bellamy.

With a hecite, apoplectic Howling, growing roll of thunder, Teddy's going to blow up—

Stand from under!

Though there's somotimes scarce a puff from this lid, that's just a bluff.

For his calmer moments never mean security. And the Prophets yell: "Look out; he's intending for a spout—
There'll be trouble in the very near futurity."

No, we can't forsee just what, bug his crater's getting hot,
And the coals will soon be dropping, as they must, again

Singeing up the Tariff's tatiers and the mossy old Standpatters—
There's no telling where Vesuvius will bust

ere's no terms and again,
h a jounding, nation-bounding,
sping, thumping roil of thunder,
Teddy's going for a spout—
Stand from under!

—Wallace Irwin, in Coiller's.

MERELY JOKING.

and They Say Figures Can't Lie. Jones—Do you believe there is safety in numbers? numbers?
Skorcher—Sura: whenever I'm exceeding the speed limit, I hang some other chap's number on the back of my auto!-Life.

"I cannot be your wife," she replied, and added: "This is final."

He paced swiftly to and fro, several times, then halted abruptly in front of her.

"Pray be candid with me," he said, not without the note of maculine impatience, "About hew final?"

This was too much. She burst into tears.

"How do I know?" she subbed.—Puck.

"Do you think the effects of the Brownsville affair will be far-reaching?" ssked the man who interviews everybody.

"Isss, Indeed," answered Mr. Erastus Pink-ley, "I know's a dozen children dat's done had der names changed fum "T. Rosswelt Odorge Washington." "-Washington."

Ethel—Is Dolly's flance very old? Edith—Awfully! Why, folks are beginning o tell him that he doesn't look old.—Judge,

replied Mr. Pompous, "I'm a gentleman,

"You don't say? Haven't been workin' at long, have ye?"-Philadelphia Press. Half True, Anyway,

He (after the refusal)—Had I been rich per haps your answer would have been quit different. She-Perhaps. He-But poverty is no crime. She-Oh, yes, it is—and the punishment is hard laber.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Suction gas plants are being introduced on the Bollvian tablelands, says a British consular report. The fuel problem there is a serious ene, and these suction gas plants are being used in Bollvian mines with anthracite for fuel as the most economical power.

The Empress of Russia and Queen Maud of Norway wear the two most expensive sable coats in the world. That worn by the Empress is worth anywhere from \$250,000 to \$400,000, and that of Queen Maud is worth half as much.

eneral of New Hampshire, retired yesterday fler twenty-seven years and six months con-nuous service. Major Ayling served with dis-betion in the Civil and Spanish-American ars.

John E. Wilkie, chief of the Secret Service, s one of the best amateur magicians in the country. He performs wonders with a deck of pards and his sleight-of-hand manoeuvres with noin, handkerchiefs and other objects are a source of constant wonder to his friends.

source of constant wonder to his friends.

The Chinese at Singapore, to the number of 130,000, have resolved to discontinue the practice of public ancestor worship, including feasts and public processions, and to devote the money thus saved, estimated at \$100,000 a year, to educational purposes.

The model of a statue of Colonel Robert G. Ingersoil, ordered by the Ingersoil Monument Association, of Peoria, Ill., has been finished in clay in New York. It will be cast in bronze early in the spring, and will be unveiled at Peoria on the anniversary of Colonel Ingersoil'g death, on July 21st.

stowed in various ways more than 559,000. Thoma, H. Paynter, who will succeed Senator Blackburn, of Kentucky, next March, is a large, muscular-looking man, and looks a good deal like Secretary Tart, though tailer and nothing like so ample in circumference. He has been a member of the Kentucky Court of Appeals, the highest judicial tubunal in the Blue Grass State, since leaving Congress eight or ten years ago.

years age.

Although James Bryce, the new British ambassador to this country, is sixty-eight years old, he has not by any means exhausted his physical energies or his fondness for exercise in the open. His favorite recreation is mountain elimbing, and he is president of the English Alpine Club.

English Alpine Club,

Rev. Dr. Dickie, paster of the American
Church in Berlin, has received an autograph
letter from the Kaiser, asking the permission
of the American colony to present to the
illivrary of the church a life-size picture of
himself, to be hung alongside the picture of
President Roosevelt.

# ENGLAND'S HUGE **BOODLE MACHINE**

Municipal Conditions Worse Than In American Cities.

Grafting Machine Built Up by the Socialists and the Trades Unionists-Labor Bosses Get Rich Rake-Offs and Enormous Sums of Money Are Wasted -Municipal Trading Has Brought Evils.

By S. FRED. HOGUE

LONDON, ENGLAND, October 15.— Down the Strand, past Trafalgar Square to Waterloo Bridge, I walked to secure a good view of Father Thames. It was the week of the Harvard-Cambridge boat race, and I joined in the general suppli-cation that weather and water should be fine.

race will be rowed on blue water." I persisted.

My reward was an introduction to the cocking smile, "Hive lived in Lunner for forty year an' Hive only seen blue water in the guidebukes an' th' pos' cards good to the control of the

goin' to America."

Thus one of my idols was rudely shat-

tered.

Sitting in the office of the secretary of
the London Municipal Society I attempted to reply to a neatly turned compli-ment on the progress of American cities by remarking that: "England leads us in many features of municipal government understand that in the cities of Great Britain there is no polities and no graft."

Came the West End smile that rises in the hair roots and sinks from view in the mustache. "I have read that assertion in some of your off-color magazines and in books published for Americans. can consumption, but never in our own papers. I believe that your investigation will convince you that politics is the rule and graft hardly the exception."

### Another idol had toppled from its Worse Than American.

Worse Than American.

It was not necessary to probe very deeply to discover that the graft microb-waxes even fatter under the Union Jack than beneath the Stars and Stripes. It England it has richer food and fewe

England it has richer food and fewer enemiles.

Not only are the municipal traders thoroughly organized in the big cities along the lines laid down by Croker and Murphy for the guidance of the faithful in New York; they are cemented in a general association promoted for the common defense and mutual welfare.

The twenty-eight boroughs of Greater London are apparently honeycombed by every species of graft in the argot of municipal socialism. Some of the members of the Crooks-Ketr-Hardle ring of labor union agitators have some to the extreme of reaching boldly into the municipal purse and extracting gold by the handfuls. But these are the bunglers, the amateurs, I shall deal with them later. Here are a few examples of the later. Here are a few examples of the

later. Here are a few examples of the work of the professionals:
A year ago the County Council of Greater London decided to widen a portion of the Strand. Some of the property of the Galety Theatre was taken, the company receiving an exceedingly generous allowance for the land and improvements confiscated. The Galety Theatre is in good standing with the Socialist-Labor Union party of London. Its restaurant is one of the resorts of the agitators.

Six months ago two Conservative members of the Council scented a bill for

bers of the Council scented a bill for extras that the finance committee was trying to disinfect. Investigation brought to light the fact that the agitators were about to make a substantial "present" to the Galety Theatre. The extra bill

amounted to \$85,000.

When the two West End Councilmen protested, the agitators produced an agreement pledging the Council to bear the expense of certain extra finishing on the south entrance. They said that the style of building planned by the Galety people did not meet with their approval, and that they were paying the extra \$85,000 to carry out the art scheme for the Strand Improvement. And despite all further protests, the bill was paid. ounted to \$85,000.

the payment illegal, but there has been no attempt at recovery. London called it a "blunder," and there was no investiga-

A. E. Brown held a lease standing in A. E. Brown held a lease standing in the way of a street widening that forms a part of the proposed Strand improvement. The Council bought the lease, paying a big premium, and the building was to be demolished.

Three weeks ago Brown filed with the Council an application for a renewal of his lease. When the astounded Conservatives protested he pointed to a clause in the contract giving to him the option

in the contract giving to him the option

of an eight-year renewal.

If this house is permitted to stand it blocks an improvement on which the Council has already expended the great sum of £1,000,000. Brown offered to comsum of £1,000,000. Brown offered to com-promise for £100,000, and the finance com-mittee virtually agreed to present him this bonus. Crooks and his agitators have passed the word down the line that Brown shall get it. But an unexpected

Union Rates of Wages in New

# TEACHERS AND WAGE-EARNERS

The Pay of Teachers. In some casese these figures are the minmum rates in the localities named; in

Bucks Co., Pn ....

These figures are official. In every case the figures are the minimum, the least amount which the union will allow a member to accept. As a matter of fact, many workmen make more than the figures given, for "overtime" (any time over eight hours a day) is paid extra at the rate of one-half more than the refuger rate; and work done a fun. other cases they are the average rate. The yearly rate is, in every case, the ontire sum that a teacher can earn in a year; there is no such thing as overtime for them, and they are employed only the regular rate; and work done on Sun-days and holidays is paid for at double rates. The yearly rate is based on three hundred working days of eight hours this respect they can be compared with some outdoors artisans who cannot work the year round. As to places outside of New York, some allowance must be made for differences in the cost of living.

Month, 1

IE.		Titte.	
200	Bricklayer	\$5.60	
rear.	Mason	4.40	
245.00	Carpenter	4.80	
850.00	Plasterer	5.30	
380.00	Hod-carrier	3.00	
315.00	Tile layer	5.00	
710.30	Cabinet-maker	4.00	
569.00	Steam fitter	5.00	
	Stationary engineer	5.00	
600.00	Electrical worker	4.50	
	Printer (per week)	21.00	
900.00	Linotype operator (per	Alexander	
503.00	week)	23.00	
423.60	Tile layer's helper	3.00	
	Electrical engineer	5.00	
3,746.85	Hoisting engineer	5.00	
2,126.02	Rigger engineer		
		DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE	

complication has arisen. It appears that under the English law the Council must get the consent of Parliament to make the extra payment. The Brown episode is proving a blunder of the kind that the agitators do not relish.

Two weeks ago they stifled an attempt on the part of the Conservatives to secure an official investigation for the purpose of ascertaining some facts about that re-

of ascertaining some facts about that renewal clause. In a western community this would be

sufficient provocation for organizing a vigilance committee. The lethargic London press comments mildly that it is a costly blunder on the part of the city

authorities.

A \$60,000 clause in a contract of a like nature to which an American municipality was a part would hardly be classed a "blunder." London has already for-

Last year the Council purchased land in the borough of Fulham to be used as a site for model municipal tenements. That land was paid for at the rate of

\$5.400,000 an acre.

When the bill came before the Council When the bill came before the Council some members bluntly charged that it was an open theft of hundreds of thousands of pounds of the rate-payers' money. They said the land would not bring in the open market one-fourth the price the city proposed to pay.

A number of Councilmen who had been voting with the "Progressive" majority, balked at this numbers of

balked at this purchase. The scene in the Council room the day the deal was concluded was one that elsewhere would have occasioned widespread comment. Londoners left their offices and their counters to go and protest. But they lacked organization, and the Crooks ring coulty yould to close the contract by coolly voted to close the contract in spite of the opposition...

That left a few sore spots and will probably cost several councilors their seats; but the money has been paid.

I have talked over this purchase with a number of London real estate men. They declined to permit their names to be used for publication at the present time, as it would mean to secure the enmity of the labor union bosses, and a probable boycott. But each of them as-sured me privately that the price is more than twice that for which land adjoining could be secured.

### Union Plunder

One of the "blunders" in connection with the Strand improvement came to light a few days ago. The Council purchased the lease on a building held by a laundryman, who was one of the pillars of the laundrymen's union. The usual high premium was paid and the building high premium was paid and the building was razed. The public has just learned that the land is not needed by the city, that it is not in the line of any proposed improvement and that the payment to the laundryman was a gift of rate-payers' money. He had admitted that he was losing money on the lease when the city stepped in and pelid a \$50,000 hours.

bonus.

A big contract was let by the borough of Wesiminster for the paving of a number of streets near the Parilament buildings, While the work was in progress citizens complained that the material used was of an inferior quality and that the workmanship was even worse. Finally absolute evidence was secured that the contractor was paying money that the contractor was paying money.

that the contractor was paying money to certain city officials. This led to an investigation which the Council could not escape. When the hearing was held the contractor admitted the payment of the contractor admitted the payment of the money, but asserted that it was a personal loan.

And the verdict rendered was that the

And the vender rendered was that the evidence was not sufficient to convict. This personal loan plea is one that is frequently advanced in political investigations here. It appears to be a sufficient excuse to justify a contractor's making direct payment to those who give him the contract or who are appointed to inspect the work.

Councilmen make it a practice to receive a profit out of "being in the know" when alent for securing options on land which the city is going to buy. Through its many municipal trading schemes the Council has a great deal of buying to do, both of land and material. The County Council handles enormous sums of money yearly.

I find that many business men are willing that the Council shall graft so long as the business man gets a share of the pickings. In this some London

eankers are involved. One banker just off Threadneedle Street told me that he could recall a score of instances in which men who went into the Council with practically nothing are now among the best customers of the bank. This refers to members of the County Council and to borough councils as well.

But when I pressed him for names

and figures he shut up like a claim. "They are customers of ours or have been, you know," he said, "and you couldn't expect me to help get them into trouble."

He appeared to treat the use of the county and borough councils for a step-size-stone to affine as a matter of ping-stone to affluence as a matter of no real import. In fact, one of the most inexplicable things about English poli-tics is the dulled moral sense of the communities. They seem to take petty graft-ing on the part of the officials as a mat-ter of course. Their only complaint com-when called upon to pay higher rates.

I have recited but a few instances of nunicipal transactions in which the hand of the professional political grafter is revealed. There are hundreds of such revealed. There are hundreds of such to be had for the searching in the Socialist boroughs of London, and in practically every large city in England.

Shaw's Testimony.

Lest I should be thought the only one who has found evidence of this graft in English cities, I shall include an extract from the testimony given by George Bernard Shaw before the American Com-mission which the Civic Association sent to Great Britain last summer to study

municipal socialism.

He was testifying about a lease of the northern section of the London tramway

system. ... "The result was that the Council was "The result was that the Council was almost equally divided between two parties. When the question came along of the County Council municipalizing the tramways on the north side, as it had a right to do, there was a terrific fight. The tramways corporation influenced an impecunious labor man to vote against his convictions. His cash value could not have been £1,000. The cash value soon. 1,196



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to London has been a hilf-million, and the granting of the lease delayed the electrification of the tramways for seven has written numerous articles to Amerihas written numerous articles to American magazines exploiting the municipal purity of English cities; the man who has told us that in English municipalities there is no politics and no graft. He is a professed Socialist; the idel of the red ranters of the east side docks. But he finds it easy to point out graft and corruption when it suits his purpose to have it that way.

have it that way.

Not all the members of the governing Not all the members of the governing bodies of the English municipalities are men who replenish their depleted coffers from the public purse. Many of the London Councilors are citizens whose integrity is above suspicton. But, unfortunately for the best interests of the municipalities, these men are in the minority. The so-called Progressive party The so-called Progressive party is now in control in all the great manu is now in control in all the great manufacturing centres. This is the party of municipal trading. It is the union of the Socialist and the union agitator elements; the party that has been mixed up in every legislative scandal in England during the last ten years, and there have been hundreds of them.

In this letter I have enumerated only incidents of recent date, in which the

In this letter I have enumerated only incidents of recent date, in which the plotters have been able to escape with their plunder—incidents in which the rate-payers have been forced to accept a Scotch verdict of "not proven."

In my next I shall give the details of In my next I shell give the details of instances in which the grafters have been caught in the act. Two ex-lieutenants of the ring are now doing time in prison for grafting. The especial signification of these incidents is that prior to the advent of municipal trading, or, more properly, the Socialist regime, such incidents were practically unknown. The patronage and opportunities extended to councilors through handling the great municipal trading enterprises have made places in the Councils popular in the extreme.

Housing Scheme a Failure. Municipal housing schemes have been prolific of a great deal of graft. It enters with the purchase of the land, thrives on the construction of the buildings, and waxes exceedingly fat in the leasing to

waxes exceedingly fat in the leasing to tenants, who form a privileged class. I have not found that the municipal housing scheme does away with the slums. It simply drives the very poor from one street to another.

In most instances the rental charsed for the new district is greater than the very poor can pay; for it must be remembered that the Progressive voters will not stand for any improvement that visibly increases the rates. The municipal housing either attracts a class of tenants who could afford to pay rent

fellows.

In no cases are the houses occupied by those who really need the relief, and in either case a class of privileged tenants has been established at the expense of the ratepayers.

London is bonded for its municipal housing schemes in an amount equal to five times the municipal debt of Los Angeles, water included.

In these letters I have laid especial stress on conditions in Greater London. The reason for this is that ten of the twenty-eight boroughs of the metropolis are themselves among the largest cities in Great Britain. The borough of Westminster contains more wealth than any city in the empire outside of London. In population flye of the London boroughs would be among the first ten cities in England. It is in London that head-quarters of all the municinal trading societies are maintained; and in London are the leaders of the Socialist-Labor Union ring that has achieved the notoriety of prostituting English politics.

I have visited the large cities in England, from the Scottish border to the Channel, and in every one of them I have found the hands of the "Prosreasives" stained with the tar of the Crooks kettles. Municipal trading has neither lowered prices nor improved service, but it has built up a political machine that is increasing taxes at a rate that is bound scouer or later to bring a crisis in English politics.

# BOYDTON HUNT.

Opossum Turns Out to Be an Innocent Tom Cat.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BOYDTON, VA., January 13.—A party
of young town people, including five young ladies, went out a few nights ago on a big opossum hunt. Soon the dogs treed some kind of game. The ladies went into ectasies at the chance of seeing an opossum, and as the dogs barked at the tree the young ladies harked the dogs on, and finany a young man climbed the tree to shake out the man, changed the tree to shake out the opossum, when to their disappointment a tom cat sprung out and, lighting on the ground, the dogs selzed the poor animal, and then the whole party set upon the dogs to get them off the poor cat, which, when rescued, was well-nigh dead. This is the last opossum hunt these young ladies will engage to soon.